

THE GAZETTE.

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 27, 1859.

GENIUS.—BY J. B. JOHNSON.

Genius is defined as an aptitude of the mind for a particular study, and as qualifying an individual for a certain employment. Those who have written in support of this definition of the term, have produced more of an apostrophe to the term itself, than an argument in favor of the existence of this peculiar power which one person rather than another, is supposed to possess. In our investigations of cause and effect, it is indeed, sometimes difficult to tell where nature ends and where education begins. The casuist frequently meets cases in which it is impracticable to decide whether their characteristics have arisen as the effect of fixed laws, or as the result of accident. In medicine, it is often most difficult for the pathologist to distinguish those diseases which only attack a great many persons at a time, from those which are occasioned by a specific effluvia. Hence, philosophers will ever differ on those mooted questions whose decisions are hidden in the arena of Nature. It is thus that metaphysical subjects are involved in dispute; and when the mind is brought to examine them, in consequence of their immaterial nature, it has to rely on the evidence, rather than the positive existence, of the principle or subject itself.

It is true, the Orator may stand in the forum alone in his greatness, commanding thousands by the majesty of his thoughts and figures, as his clarion voice thrills the hearts of an admiring multitude; and the man of Science may astonish a wondering world by his disclosures of the strange ways of nature; while the Warrior may fill the minds of his fellows with admiration of the mighty deeds of valor performed on the battle field; and their admirers may proclaim each possessed of an innate disposition for his calling, or in other words, as having a genius for it. Such persons view the subjects of their admiration and the blaze of their success; but do they ask how many months and years the Warrior, Orator, and Naturalist spent in becoming such? Do they remember that war is but brute force acting in the absence of reason, giving victory to the vigilant and brave? Do they ask how long Newton studied the workings of the machinery of nature, and note that by the falling of an apple he was led to fathom and expand the law of gravitation? Do they recollect how long Demosthenes wore the pebble under his tongue, and how many months he practised declamation by the sea side? Oratory, all will admit, consists in the correct use of words accompanied by suitable action or gesture. To be a successful Orator, much reading and study are requisite. We will say, then, reader, are listening to a speaker who has your attention fixed and your passions aroused, you admire him, nay, his powers astonish and confound you, and you think him great beyond comparison. Let the same individual speak in a language unfamiliar to your ear and use the same gesture, and it will be but a ridiculous pantomime to your eye, and you will soon grow weary of listening to him. So in order for us to accord a man a genius for Oratory, he must speak in a manner that is intelligible to us. The very language which he uses is of human origin. Ours, we are told, was not known previous to the fifth century, and did not attain anything like its present perfection until about the twelfth century. Place an unworldly infant without the pale of human society, and all language will remain unknown to it.

Gray was right when he said, "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, &c." intimating that circumstances do much towards bringing out the powers of the mind. Washington was, by no means, as great, intellectually, as Jefferson. Circumstances made both great. How many have breathed and died in this country, who, from English oppression before it was free? How much did not Washington owe to the generous foreigners who came to the aid of the struggling country in the nick of time? And had their efforts been other than successful, our virtuous forefathers instead of being venerated as the Sages and Heroes of the American Revolution, would now be contemplated as the vilest rebels and traitors of their day.

The mind is divisible into memory, imagination, and reason. All have not strength of these in the same degree. Hence, the mental diversity which we observe among our fellow-creatures. Circumstances, and the power of the will make a man a Genius. C. and W. were great statesmen, and under-standers, according to the judgment of the rest of the world with which each was connected, the spirit of our federal constitution. Did nature give them a special genius to expound it? No. She gave them a good reason, a good imagination, and a good memory. Accident indicated what was most suitable for them to take hold of, and circumstances favored the pursuit.

Iron is subjected to a certain process, and it becomes steel. Man is subjected to a certain process, and he becomes a genius. But for the certain process, he would remain unlettered and untaught just as the steel would remain iron. Nature has made man a proud animal. Ambition, the child of self-love, impels him to endeavor to outstep his fellows. In this strife for precedence is evolved that activity and concentrativeness which occasion what is called Genius, and this result will ever be in proportion to the elevation of the man in the scale of mental capacity.

Alexandria, January 24, 1859.

FALL SUPPLY.

J. P. CLARKE, NO. 108 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

Has on hand an entire new stock of CURTAIN MATERIALS, comprising the choicest styles of Satin de Lanes, Brocade, Damask, Cord, Tassels and Gimps, Lace and Muslin Curtains, Drapery Muslin, Silk Cornices, Bands, Pins, &c., &c.

Also, a splendid stock of Painted and Gold WINDOW SHADES, containing every variety, Buff, Drab, Green, Blue, and White Window Shades, and all of the most improved Faintures, including Wire Shades.

VEGETARIAN BLINDS, REED BLINDS, and PAPER SHADES.

Church, Store, and other large Shades, painted to order.

GREAT BARGAINS FOR CITY AND COUNTRY MERCHANTS, AT THE ALEXANDRIA BROOM FACTORY.

Brooms at.....\$1 25 per dozen.

Do.....2 00 do.

Do.....2 50 do.

Large size Brooms (two hoops).....1 75 do.

Painted Brooms (two hoops).....2 00 do.

Do (three do).....2 00 do.

Large size Wash Boards.....1 50 do.

Patent Zinc Boards.....5 00 do.

And everything in my line as low as it can be bought this side of New York.

L. HERRING, Royal, south of Prince-st. Oct 4-1f

IMPORTANT TO COUNTRY MERCHANTS.

I am now manufacturing T. WARE, which I am selling at wholesale, as well as at retail. I have in Baltimore, or any of the other cities, a large stock on hand, and can fill orders with despatch.

H. I. GREGORY, No. 118 King-st. sep 15-1f

NOTICE.—The highest market price paid for Old Scrap Iron, Wrought and Cast, Rags, Paper, Copper, Brass, Lead, Zinc, &c., &c., by Union and Duke sts., or No. 50 Union-st. sep 20-1f

LOTTERY ADVERTISEMENT.

WOOD, EDDY & CO.'S SINGLE NUMBER LOTTERIES.

(FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA.)

CAPITAL PRIZE, \$50,000.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

As the members of our firm have, by way of purchase, become the owner of the grants chartered by the State of Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, and parts of those in Georgia, under the management of Messrs. Gregory & Maury, of Williamsburg, we have determined to devote the proceeds to change the name of our firm, on and after January 1st, 1859, to that of WOOD, EDDY & CO., who will hereafter have the management of the State Academy Lottery, and the other grants, as above named. In all transactions we have endeavored to conduct our business with integrity and promptness, and we assure the public that the patronage heretofore bestowed on us is well deserving of being transferred to our successors.

Very respectfully, SWAN & CO., Augusta, Georgia, Dec. 15, 1858.

WOOD, EDDY & CO., MANAGERS.

(Successors to SWAN & CO.)

THE following Scheme will be drawn by WOOD, EDDY & CO., Managers of the SPARTA ACADEMY LOTTERY, in each of their Single Number Lotteries for February, 1859, at Augusta, Ga., in public, under the superintendence of Commissioners.

CLASS 6 draws Saturday, February 5, 1859.

CLASS 7 draws Saturday, February 12, 1859.

CLASS 8 draws Saturday, February 19, 1859.

ON THE PLAN OF SINGLE NUMBER LOTTERIES.

50,000 TICKETS. 5,450 PRIZES!!

NEARLY ONE PRIZE TO EVERY TEN TICKETS.

MAGNIFICENT SCHEME.

1st Prize of \$100,000, 1 Ticket.

2nd Prize of \$50,000, 1 Ticket.

3rd Prize of \$25,000, 1 Ticket.

4th Prize of \$10,000, 1 Ticket.

5th Prize of \$5,000, 1 Ticket.

6th Prize of \$2,500, 1 Ticket.

7th Prize of \$1,000, 1 Ticket.

8th Prize of \$500, 1 Ticket.

9th Prize of \$250, 1 Ticket.

10th Prize of \$100, 1 Ticket.

11th Prize of \$50, 1 Ticket.

12th Prize of \$25, 1 Ticket.

13th Prize of \$10, 1 Ticket.

14th Prize of \$5, 1 Ticket.

15th Prize of \$2, 1 Ticket.

16th Prize of \$1, 1 Ticket.

17th Prize of \$500, 1 Ticket.

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